



COUNTY BOROUGH OF STOKE-ON-TRENT.

Annual Report

— ON —

School Medical Work

FOR THE YEAR 1916.

W. LUDFORD FREEMAN, M.A., LL.D.,
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.



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Note by the Director of Education.

This is the Sixth Annual Report of the work carried on in the Borough in connection with School Medical Work.

The year has been an unfortunate one so far as the Medical Staff is concerned. Drs. Hughes and Swainson are still on active service, and in view of the great demand for doctors in the Army, the Committee felt they would not be doing their duty to the country if they did not grant them a further year's leave of absence, so leave has been granted until the spring of 1918.

Dr. Mason left us at a very short notice in August, 1916, to take up an appointment in London, and in spite of much effort on the part of the Local Education Authority it has been impossible to obtain a successor.

The Committee are now considering the question of local temporary Doctors, but since the advent of Lord Derby's letter of 21st April they are holding their hand for the moment. If the services of such Doctors can be obtained in the near future, arrangements will be made as heretofore, for the selection of scholars who appear to be ailing, by the Teachers, Nurses, and Attendance Officers, for subsequent examination by these Doctors:

The Local Education Authority has been very fortunate in securing the services of Dr. McMurray, the eye-specialist. He commenced duties on the 6th November, and since then has regularly attended the Hanley Clinic and his services have proved invaluable.

The Staff of Nurses has been fully maintained during the year, and I should like to say how much their work has been appreciated. Their loyalty and perseverance have met with considerable success.

W. LUDFORD FREEMAN, M.A., LL.D.,

Director of Education.

May, 1917.

Memoranda.

Area of Borough	...	...	...	...	11,142 acres.
Population (Census 1911)	...	...	...	...	234,553
Estimated mid-year population, 1915 (Civil population only). Figures for 1916 not yet to hand	...	...	...	...	225,405
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	£849,917
Total Rates	{ Hanley (highest)				11/3
	{ Fenton (lowest)				8/10
Elementary Education Rate (assuming flat rate 1916-1917)	...	...	...	...	1/7'7
A penny rate produces	...	...	...	...	£3,230
Number of public elementary schools	...	...	...	...	72
Accommodation	...	...	...	...	48,272
Average number on rolls	...	...	...	...	44,926
Average attendance	...	...	...	...	40,116
Number of secondary schools	...	...	...	...	3
Number on rolls	...	...	...	...	999
Number of special schools	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Stoke Children resident	...	...	...	...	56
Number of "half-timers"	...	...	...	...	None

Staff.

School Medical Officers.

*Margaret Mason, M.B., Ch.B. (Glasgow).

Samuel McMurray, M.B., F.R.C.S.

Robert Hughes, M.B. (London).	}	On active
Edwin A. Swainson, M.A., M.B. (Cambridge).	}	service.

School Nurses.

Harriet Pitt.

Ethel Jones.

**Florence Tait.

Lilian Burgess.

Clerks.

Hilda Simpson.

Lucy Kilgour.

Wm. G. Cumberlidge

Wilfred Rowlands

} On active service.

All of these with the exception of Dr. McMurray are full time officials.

*Left 31st August, 1916.

**Left 31st August, 1916, and replaced by Nurse Burgess.

Medical Inspection of the Child.

Owing to the very limited staff the examination of entrants and leavers has been entirely suspended, but during the tenure of Dr. Mason a large number of specials were examined, these included the following classes of children :—

- (1) Children presented for inspection by the Head Teachers, School Nurses and Attendance Officers.
- (2) Children thought to be suffering from infectious diseases.
- (3) Exceptional cases of neglect.
- (4) Mental cases.
- (5) Children with defective hearing or eyesight.
- (6) Tubercular cases.
- (7) Candidates for the teaching profession.

Under Section 122 of the Children's Act, the School Nurses have visited the various schools in the Borough in order to examine the children with regard to personal cleanliness and clothing. As last year, the Nurses work in rotation in their own districts, devoting one week to the visiting of schools, and the following two weeks to the work at the Treatment Clinic.

During the year they examined 17,593 children.

Cleanliness.

It is pleasing to note that the percentage of children found to have either pediculi or nits in the hair has considerably decreased. Whereas in 1915 the percentage of affected children was 52.1, the percentage for 1916 is 35.09. This is very largely due to the untiring efforts of the School Nurses, who not only frequently re-examine the children so affected and encourage such children to make greater efforts themselves, but also in visiting the homes of the parents. Probably the issue of a pamphlet on "How to get rid of Nits in the Hair," sent to the mother of every child found affected has proved profitable.

CHILDREN MEDICALLY EXAMINED BY THE
SCHOOL NURSES.

Year	No. Inspected	No. with Nits or Pediculi present	No. Clean	Percentage Nits and Pediculi
1916	17593	6165	11428	35.09
1915	18012	9502	8510	52.1
1914	15759	7116	8643	45.1

It was noted in the Report of 1915 that there had been a considerable increase in the number of cases of scabies among

school children, and the greater number of these cases were traced to soldiers having this disease when home on leave. Unfortunately the number of children so suffering is quite considerable.

Until this year such cases were treated at home by the parents, acting on the advice given by the School Medical Officer and Nurses. This year it has been found necessary to carry out treatment at the Hanley Clinic. No fewer than 216 cases were dealt with and with unqualified success.

The Local Education Authority recognising the contagious character of such a disease has, in conjunction with other Education Authorities, joined in a petition urging the undesirability of soldiers being allowed home on furlough when suffering from scabies.

As far as possible the model tables issued by the Board of Education in 1913 have been adopted.

Footgear.

It is pleasing to relate that there is a considerable decrease in the number of children found to have faulty footgear. The Chief Attendance Officer reports that he has never seen the children better shod than they are at present, and there has been a far less call upon the Burslem, Hanley and Stoke Voluntary Boot Funds than hitherto. It is believed that one reason for this is that a good many of the parents of the poorer classes are better off than they were during the earlier stages of the War. These local boot funds have proved invaluable in cases of distress, and have warded off many illnesses which are traceable to wet feet, especially where the children are neglected or badly nourished.

This year the weather has been exceptionally severe, so that the efforts of the teachers and others in supplying slippers, especially in the Infant Schools have been much appreciated.

The number of pairs of boots supplied during the year through the medium of the Voluntary Funds was:—

Burslem	...	...	114 pairs'
Hanley	...	...	88 „
Stoke	...	...	40 „

Defective Hearing.

As in previous years slight and transient cases of deafness owing to obstruction or otorrhoea have been treated at the Clinic. In the cases of obstruction there has been considerable success as a result of such treatment, but, with regard to otorrhoea, while the cases show a marked improvement, only 24 cases can be said to have been cured.

The number of children sent from this Borough to the deaf department of the Blind and Deaf School was seven.

This school is under the control of the Joint Authority of the County of Stafford, and the County Borough of Stoke-on-Trent Local Education Authorities.

Defective Vision.

As in past years Head Teachers with their Staffs test the eyesight of every child of seven years of age and upwards, by means of "Snellens Test Type for Distant Vision," once every year.

Dr. Hughes, the School Medical Officer, joined the R.A.M.C. early in 1915. He had specialised on children's eyesight. The Local Education Authority were not fortunate enough to obtain a successor with special qualifications, and although efforts were made to obtain a specialist locally they proved unsuccessful.

Arising out of a visit to the Board of Education by the Chairman of the Education Committee and the Director of Education, it was found possible to appoint Mr. McMurray, M.B., F.R.C.S., a local eye-specialist of repute, to the School

Medical Service; and he commenced duties on the 6th November, attending on alternate Monday mornings. Much valuable work has already been done, and it is felt that if more time could be given to this subject the school children would be still further benefited. Until the advent of Mr. McMurray's appointment, parents were advised to take their children who were suffering from defective eyesight to the North Stafford Infirmary or the Longton Cottage Hospital, in those cases where it was found impossible for them to afford an eye-specialist's fee. The new arrangement, happily, relieves the pressure on the local hospitals, where, as in other large towns the War is responsible for depleted staffs.

As a result of Mr. McMurray's work not only are right spectacles obtained but daily treatment is prescribed in particular cases, and this is carried out by the nurses at the Clinic. Nurses, head teachers and attendance officers all unite in finding out all suspected cases of defective vision, and the children are brought to Mr. McMurray at the earliest possible moment; and in this way it is felt that all children in the Borough have a fair chance of being examined.

As a result of the Board of Education giving their sanction to the provision of spectacles out of public funds, many children have received spectacles who would not otherwise have done so. There are Voluntary Spectacle Funds in Burslem and Hanley.

The number so provided during 1916 was:—

Burslem	...	...	...	16 pairs.
Hanley	...	...	...	9 „
Education Committee	...	...	...	9 „

The School Medical Sub-Committee carefully considers all applications for spectacles, and when necessary supply them free of cost. In many cases parents are willing to pay

for them themselves, and in others they are willing to pay in small amounts weekly; but in all cases spectacles are provided immediately they are wanted.

It is thought that Mr. McMurray will be called up for War service in the near future. An appeal for the retention of his services was lodged with the Medical Board recently, and for the moment he is still with us, but we are uncertain as to what will happen in the future.

It will be a real loss to the children in schools in the Borough should he leave us.

Nose and Throat.

Very little can be done at present with regard to the treatment of defects which are due to Tonsils and Adenoids.

In all such cases parents are advised to take their children for surgical treatment.

Heart and Circulation.

Nervous System and Mental Defectives.

Very little work indeed has been done in regard to the above during the year.

With regard to the latter, Dr. Hughes is a specialist, and since his temporary loss no one has been able to properly investigate the same. It is pleasing, however, to know that the teachers acting on instructions have very few cases to report. This is mainly due to the exhaustive research which Dr. Hughes carried out in 1914. The teachers are endeavouring to treat individually any additional cases which have arisen, and this is believed to be quite successful.

Tuberculosis.

Much valuable work has been given to the Local Education Authority by the Borough Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. Magill,

especially with regard to his advice in certain cases. Dr. Magill's report is herewith appended. Wherever possible the parents of children suffering from suspected Tuberculosis are advised by the nurses with regard to ventilation, suitable food and sleep.

Unfortunately, owing to the War, the provision of open-air class rooms, etc., has had to be suspended, but the provision of these will be proceeded with immediately circumstances allow.

In addition to the gardening classes mentioned in the report for 1915, no fewer than 26 additional classes have been started in various parts of the Borough; this makes 31 such classes.

For many years past certain children have been enjoying temporary open-air life at the Hanchurch Convalescent Home, which is supported entirely from voluntary sources.

Owing to the generosity of the Chairman of the Education Committee, Alderman Elliott, and a few friends, a small but valuable home for children suffering from tuberculosis is now carried on at Ashley, some miles from the Borough.

This home is in a delightful situation, and children generally stay there for three months, and in every case the improvement made has been very marked.

Unfortunately, lack of funds prevents any further extension here, there being only accommodation for eight children. It is hoped that this will form a nucleus for a much larger institution and under the auspices of the Local Education Authority. Reference must be made to the admirable work of the North Staffordshire Cripples' Aid Society, whose care of the cripple children in the Borough is well known.

Dispensary Report of School Children.

During the year ending December, 1916, the number of school children who attended the Dispensary was 98 boys and 86 girls. Of these numbers, 65 boys and 75 girls were notified as suffering from Tuberculosis, and received treatment at the Dispensary.

During the year 24 boys and 35 girls were admitted to the Stanfield Sanatorium, and 30 children sent to the country, 27 to Ashley Heath and 3 to Acton. Most of the children have stayed about 12 weeks, and as a consequence their general health has been considerably improved. Of the 30 children, there were 21 boys and 9 girls specially selected from those attending the Dispensary. Of this number, 17 have returned to school, 6 improved but not yet attending school, 3 have gone to work, 1 left the district, and 3 left school.

The after treatment of those discharged from Ashley and Stanfield was continued at the Dispensary, where the conditions of the children were kept under observation, and all the cases have gone on steadily improving.

J. MAGILL.

Infectious Disease.

During the year 3,537 cases of Measles were notified. The ages of these were as follows :—

Under 1 year.	1—5 years.	Over 5 years.
245.	1,987.	1,305.

There are now five Child Welfare Centres in the Borough, all co-ordinated with the work of the Health Department. One is entirely under the Voluntary Committee, another is partially Voluntary, and two others receive assistance from Voluntary Committees. The Corporation employs 10 trained nurses as Health Visitors, and a Lady Medical Officer. The work is at present largely confined to children under two years of age, but it is intended gradually to include children up to school age.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD
OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease	School or Department Closed	Period of Closure
Diphtheria ...	Hanley Etruria Infants ...	21st Feb.—20 March
Measles ...	Stoke Trent Vale Infants ...	2nd Feb.—2nd March
„ ...	Burslem Longport Infants ...	14th Feb.—13th Mar.
„ ...	Burslem Jackfield Infants ...	29th Feb.—20th Mar.
„ ...	Hanley Wharf Lane Infants ...	„ „
„ ...	Fenton Manor Street Infants ...	3rd Mar.—13th Mar.
„ ...	Burslem Granville Infants ...	1st May—15th May
„ ...	Burslem St. Peter's R.C. Infants	10th May—5th June
„ ...	Hanley R.C. Infants ...	„ „
„ ...	Hanley Grove Infants ...	„ „
„ ...	Hanley Broom Street Infants ...	„ „
„ ...	Hanley Wellington Juniors ...	„ „
„ ...	Hanley Mount Street Infants ...	„ „
„ ...	Hanley Birches Hd. R.C. Infants	„ „
„ ...	Hanley Central Infants ...	6th May—22nd May
„ ...	Hanley Northwood Infants ...	11th May—5th June
„ ...	Burslem Granville Infants ...	17th May—12th June
„ ...	Hanley Central Infants ...	22nd May—12th June
Diphtheria ...	Fenton Mt. Pleasant Infants ...	31st Oct.—27th Nov.
„ ...	Tunstall Chell Infants ...	„ „
„ ...	Hanley Wellington Juniors ...	„ „
„ ...	Burslem Central Infants ...	14th Dec.—8th Jan.

School Clinics.

The three School Clinics in the Borough have been of much value during the year, and while the Burslem and Fenton Clinics are used for inspection purposes only, the Hanley Clinic is used for inspection and treatment, not only on school days but throughout the year without cessation; and when it is known that no fewer than 42,807 attendances have been made by children at the Hanley Clinic, it will be recognised what valuable work is being done by the School Nurses, who treat children for the following:—Ringworm, scabies, vermin, nits, and other minor skin diseases, minor ear troubles and eye affections.

Table 4 shows the result of such treatment.

Modified Scheme of the School Medical Department.

It has again been impossible during the past year to carry out the routine inspection of school children as before mentioned. While Dr. Mason was here she was only able to examine special cases brought to her notice by the Nurses, Teachers and Attendance Officers.

All the schools are in turn visited by the School Nurses in their respective districts.

Feeding of Necessitous Children.

It is pleasing to note that there is a very considerable diminution in the number of school children requiring feeding during the year 1916, as compared with 1915. So far as can be gathered from careful enquiry, no single child is left unfed. During the year, Mr. Williamson the Special Enquiry Officer to the Education Authority, and Mr. Moreton, the Chief Attendance Officer, have regularly visited the various centres. They report that the food is quite good, and the system of supervision by the teachers is excellent.

Owing to the rise in food prices it has been found necessary to allow the caterers a slight increase in their charges.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN FED.

Month				Year 1916	Year 1915
JANUARY	...	...	...	273	3043
FEBRUARY	...	...	...	308	3099
MARCH	...	...	...	327	2883
APRIL	...	...	...	293	2507
MAY	...	...	...	282	1525
JUNE	...	...	...	280	1286
JULY	...	...	...	271	759
*AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER	...	...	...	256	386
OCTOBER	...	...	...	219	293
NOVEMBER	...	...	...	306	285
DECEMBER	...	...	...	316	289

*School Summer Holidays, July 28th to August 28th.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN MEDICALLY EXAMINED
DURING 1916.

	Boys	Girls	Total
Examined in Schools ...	610	711	1321
Examined at the Inspection Clinics	555	759	1314
TOTAL	1165	1470	2635

TABLE II.

Defect or Disease	CODE GROUPS		SPECIALS	
	No. referred for treatment	No. requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment	No. referred for treatment	No. requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment
Malnutrition			56	70
Uncleanliness—				
Head			75	22
Body			18	11
Skin—				
Ringworm				
Head			2	—
Body			4	—
Scabies			6	—
Impetigo			26	—
Other disease			21	4
Eye—				
Defective Vision and Squint			210	171
External Eye disease			71	10
Ear—				
Defective hearing			59	14
Ear disease			78	6
Teeth—				
Dental disease			51	102
Nose and Throat—				
Enlarged Tonsils			75	88
Adenoids			34	13
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids			30	10
Defective Speech			6	23
Heart and Circulation—				
Heart disease				
Organic			4	6
Functional			12	8
Anæmia			41	22
Lungs—				
Pulmonary Tuberculosis				
Definite			9	—
Suspected			19	3
Chronic Bronchitis			13	10
Other disease			31	35
Nervous System				
Epilepsy			—	2
Chorea			1	2
Other disease... ..			4	52
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis—				
Glands			9	5
Bones and Joints			3	3
Other Forms... ..			1	3
Rickets			4	6
Deformities			9	7
Other defects or diseases...			112	110

TABLE IV.—SHOWING CONDITIONS TREATED AT THE
TREATMENT CLINIC AND THE RESULT OF SUCH
TREATMENT.

Conditions treated	No. treated	Remedied	Improved	Un- changed
Scabies	216	201	15	—
Ringworm—Scalp ...	166	114	48	4
Ringworm—Body ...	171	146	25	—
Blepharitis	294	134	140	20
Conjunctivitis	948	812	136	—
Corneal Opacities ...	165	124	37	4
Eczema	99	67	32	—
Impetigo	534	493	50	—
Uncleanliness	183	169	14	—
Obstruction—Ear ...	103	85	18	—
Otorrhœa	194	24	170	—
Nose and Throat	21	6	15	—
Septic Sores	151	136	15	—
Other Diseases and Defects	495	421	74	—
Total	3749	2932	789	28

No. of Attendances at the Treatment Clinic, 42,807.

TABLE V.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1916.

Condition	No. of defects found for which treatment was considered necessary			No. of defects for which no report is available	No. of defects treated	Results of Treatment			No. of defects not treated	Percentages of defects treated
	From previous year	New cases	Total			Remedied	Improved	Unchanged		
Clothing	20	61	81	—	78	27	40	11	3	96·3
Footgear	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleanliness of Head	1397	1830	3227	—	2733	687	1477	569	494	83·7
" Body	31	47	78	—	75	39	31	5	3	96·1
Nutrition	7	116	123	—	100	20	53	27	23	81·3
Nose and Throat ...	12	162	174	—	123	37	53	33	51	70·6
External Eye Disease	14	315	329	—	318	216	91	11	11	96·6
Ear Disease	9	132	141	—	115	16	82	17	26	91·5
Teeth	3	26	29	—	21	4	8	9	8	72·4
Heart and Circulation	21	74	95	—	89	22	37	30	6	94·7
Lungs	17	129	146	—	127	26	66	35	19	92·4
Nervous System ...	16	63	79	—	72	29	29	14	7	91·1
Skin	21	564	585	—	568	419	118	31	17	97·1
Rickets	4	18	22	—	2	2	—	—	20	9·0
Deformities	6	9	15	—	—	—	—	—	15	—
Tuberculosis Non-pulmonary	8	60	68	—	65	4	39	22	3	97·0
Speech	3	6	9	—	—	—	—	—	9	—
Mental Condition	2	24	26	—	—	—	—	—	26	—
Vision and Squint	5	292	297	—	128	38	55	35	169	43·0
Hearing	6	36	42	—	25	9	14	2	17	59·5
Miscellaneous ...	13	272	285	—	244	146	82	16	41	85·6
TOTAL	1615	4236	5851	—	4883	1741	2275	867	968	84·8

TABLE SHOWING PHYSICAL CONDITION OF 113 BURSARS
AND EXHIBITIONERS INSPECTED.

Number Examined	...	...	Boys 21	Girls 92	Total 113	Per Cent.
Cleanliness of Head—						
Clean	...	...	21	92	113	—
Nits	...	...	—	—	—	—
Pediculi	...	...	—	—	—	—
Nutrition—						
Excellent	...	...	7	49	56	49·4
Normal	...	...	14	42	56	49·4
Below Normal	...	...	—	1	1	·8
Bad	...	...	—	—	—	—
Nose and Throat—						
No defect	...	...	20	84	104	92·03
Mouth breathing	...	...	—	—	—	—
Adenoids	...	...	—	1	1	·8
Tonsils (slightly) enlarged	...	...	—	3	3	2·6
„ (much) „	...	...	—	—	—	—
Submaxillary & Cervical Glands	...	...	1	4	5	4·4
External Eye Disease—						
No disease	...	...	21	91	112	99·1
Blepharitis	...	...	—	1	1	·8
Corneal opacities	...	...	—	—	—	—
Ear Disease—						
No disease	...	...	21	92	113	—
Otorrhoea	...	...	—	—	—	—
Teeth—						
Sound	...	...	15	65	80	70·7
Less than four decayed	...	...	6	27	33	29·2
Four or more	...	...	—	—	—	—
Sepsis	...	...	—	—	—	—
Heart and Circulation—						
No disease	...	...	21	92	113	—
Functional	...	...	—	—	—	—
Skin—						
No disease	...	...	21	91	112	99·1
Eczema	...	...	—	1	1	·8

[Continued on next page]

TABLE SHOWING PHYSICAL CONDITION OF 113 BURSARS
AND EXHIBITIONERS INSPECTED.—*Continued.*

Number Examined					Boys 21	Girls 92	Total 113	Per Cent.
Squint—								
No Squint					21	92	113	—
Squint					—	—	—	—
Hearing—								
Normal hearing, whisper 20 feet each ear					21	92	113	—
Vision—								
6/6 each eye (normal)					12	53	65	57·5
6/6 R.					—	9	9	7·9
L.					—	4	4	3·5
6/9 R.					6	16	22	19·4
L.					5	15	20	17·6
6/12 R.					1	7	8	7·08
L.					1	7	8	7·08
6/18 R.					1	5	6	5·3
L.					2	10	12	10·6
6/24 R.					1	1	2	1·7
L.					—	3	3	2·6
6/36 R.					—	1	1	·8
L.					1	—	1	·8
6/60 R.					—	—	—	—
L.					—	—	—	—

In addition to these 85 Student Teachers were examined for
recognition as Uncertificated Teachers.

